

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## CHILDREN AND NATURE MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the N.C. Zoo and the N.C. Zoological Society, serving over 20 % of N.C. schoolchildren in outdoor and nature activities, have brought together stakeholders across the state forming a state coalition to promote children and play in nature; and

WHEREAS, children who play regularly in natural environments show more advanced motor fitness, including balance and agility, are sick less often, and have fewer incidences of obesity; and

WHEREAS, exposure to natural environments improves children's cognitive development by improving their awareness, reasoning and observational skills; and

WHEREAS, children who have contact with nature score higher on tests of concentration and self-discipline; and

WHEREAS, play in a diverse natural environment reduces or eliminates anti-social behavior such as violence, bullying, vandalism and littering, as well reduces absenteeism, stimulates social interaction between children, and promotes positive feelings about each other; and

WHEREAS, when children play in natural environments, their play is more diverse with imaginative and creative play, and promotes the development of powers of observation and problem solving which foster language and collaborative skills; and

WHEREAS, play in nature buffers the impact of life stress on children and helps them deal with adversity as well as instills a sense of peace and being at one with the world; and

WHEREAS, outdoor environments are important to children's development of independence and autonomy; and

WHEREAS, the natural beauty of N.C. offers many places where families and friends can learn, exercise, create meaningful memories, and give our children the opportunity to be reintroduced to nature and the fun adventures it holds;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2008, as "**CHILDREN AND NATURE AWARENESS MONTH**" and call upon the people of North Carolina to recognize and participate in this special observance to all so they can to help our state's children experience and enjoy the wonders of Nature.



  
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capital on this first day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.